

# GEOGRAPHY

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**Project title: Spatial Patterns and Correlations to Socioeconomic Factors of  
Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Public Comments:  
a Yellowstone National Park case study**

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Objective: Spatial analysis of Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) public comments is traditionally limited to a tally of how many responses were received from each state or country. More in-depth analysis of the spatial component of public comments and the correlation of these comments to other spatial data sets may lead to new information about these comments and the individuals submitting them. This research will attempt to look for spatial patterns in the submitted comments and correlate these patterns to socioeconomic variables such as urban/rural residence, income, and education level.

The results of this study may give a better understanding of the spatial origins of specific comments and the socioeconomic backgrounds of comment givers. Which socioeconomic groups' views are represented in public comments? Which are not? If there are spatial patterns to various management scenarios, what are they? Finally, this study will better determine the usability of public comments to answer questions such as these.

Management implications include targeting public statements and forums to broaden the reach of EIS documents; improving the solicitation of public comments from socioeconomic groups that are not represented; and learning more about where support or opposition for specific alternatives is originating.

Findings: none to date

**Project title: High School Physical Geography Field Study: Evaluate the Correlation Between  
Temperature, Slope, Fluvial Action and the Development and  
Characteristics of *Thermus Aquaticus***

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Objective: Students conduct field testing and observations at Narrow Gauge in Mammoth. Class projects vary.

Findings: Projects vary for each group.